



# The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



## The Pulse

Volume 78 No. 1  
January 2022



*“But now thus says the LORD, the one who created you... Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” -Isaiah 43:1*

I like to use simple blessings when working with young people. We end our time together by gathering and blessing one another. With one group, the blessing was, “You belong to God.” One week, a young person surprised me by saying, “I don’t like the way that sounds. I don’t like the idea of ‘belonging’ to God.” We ended up creating a different blessing together that worked better for that young person, but the conversation stuck with me. I thought of it again as I read the texts for the upcoming Sunday in January when we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, as one of the texts is a beloved passage from Isaiah that is all about belonging to God.

This text, Isaiah 43, contains messages I often share with someone going through a hard time, or needing a blessing or reminder of God’s love and presence. Isaiah 43:1 echoes the whole arc of the Bible story - God creates, protects, and redeems; we are known by and belong to God. This is a story I love to hear and tell.

Belonging usually feels good. But that conversation with this young person keeps me wondering - are there times when “belonging” doesn’t feel right? I think one way that we can miss the mark with creating places of welcome is when we consider hospitality a one-way relationship. Too often, we try to welcome people into who “we are,” without seeing who they are and receiving the gifts they offer.

Recognizing the importance of offering and receiving hospitality is one of the reasons I really love the part of our mission statement that says we “embrace the future of an ever-changing community by building loving, authentic connections.” This describes an interactive relationship. We commit to being real with one another about who we are and we seek to create connections that are two-way.

January marks the beginning of a new calendar year - we’ll gather for our Annual Meeting at the end of the month to look back at where we’ve been and identify leaders to help guide us into what’s next. This month we will gratefully begin a new staffing model with expanded roles for Steve VanMeter and Graham Sims - read more in the Council Corner on page 2. As we worship and work together, may God make clear through each of us the love God has for all the world, so that in this corner of God’s neighborhood, our words of welcome create true belonging.

*Pastor Amalia*

Pastor Amalia Vagts

“Let all that you do be done in love.” (1 Corinthians 14:16)



## Council Corner

**December 21, 2021**



As the year draws to a close and we look ahead to 2022, the Council and Finance Committee have been reviewing our 2021 finances in detail and preparing OSLC's 2022 budget. We invite the congregation to attend the Sunday Forum after worship on Sunday, January 23 at which we'll present and discuss the proposed budget in detail. Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held the following week, on Sunday, January 30; we hope you'll attend and take part in the conversation as we make plans together for the coming year.

We sincerely appreciate your generosity throughout 2021 as well as your Stewardship Statements of Intent for 2022; each pledge helps us to make 2022 financial plans with more precision (if you have not yet submitted your pledge, you may still do so).

The 2022 budget reflects some changes to our staffing model; titles and some responsibilities have changed for several of our staff, including Steve VanMeter (now Parish Coordinator) and Graham Sims (now Campus Caretaker). Please join us in congratulating them in their new positions and expressing gratitude to all of our staff whose hard work and flexibility have helped OSLC through the pastoral leadership transition as well as pandemic-related challenges.

We remain in Phase 1 of our plans for gathering during Covid-19: masks are required regardless of vaccination status, and we will continue to maintain physical distancing when gathering together. Thank you for your help in caring for all of the members of our church community during these challenging times.

May God bless you and your loved ones with health and safety in the New Year.

**In Christ—**

**OSLC Church Council**



### **The Knit & Crochet Group**

will resume meeting starting **Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 1:00PM in the Activity Building Main Room**. The group continues **the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1:00PM in AB Main**. Donations of yarn are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the Church Office during business hours. Thank you!



Thank you to all who donated shoes for the shelter in Nogales. We collected many many shoes. There were also socks donated through another some of you and another group. It was a huge success. Thank you for such a caring community that helped provide warm footwear. Blessings and Merry Christmas.

*- Pastor Mateo Chavez and Annette Chavez*





INTERFAITH  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES

WHERE HELP BRINGS HOPE

Donations are down and the Food Bank needs your help as families continue to struggle through the pandemic. Canned and packaged non-perishable food items such as canned meats, peanut butter, cereal, pasta and pasta sauce, rice, beans and personal hygiene items are needed. Please put items in the shopping cart that is on the patio on Sundays.



**OUR STAFF**

Pastor Amalia Vagts  
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Steve VanMeter  
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Sophia Rankin  
*Music Ministry Coordinator*

Pastor Mateo Chavez  
*Visitation Pastor*  
jmchavez111@yahoo.com

**January Birthdays**

- 1/1: Josephine Dennis    1/3: Terri Pupach    1/4: Martin Khan  
 1/5: Meghan Bates, Mary Lou Forier, Courtlin Riley  
 1/6: John Heidel    1/10: Emma Larson  
 1/11: Eric Cross, Margaret Keldahl    1/12: Connie Reitschel  
 1/14: Eldon Braun, James Murray  
 1/16: Nick Cajero, Kelly Walter  
 1/20: Angelina Grandison,  
 Cannon Johnson, Claudia Saphir  
 1/22: Bryce Thomas  
 1/25: Tobias Hahn, Tara Harper  
 1/27: Delia Mohler  
 1/28: Jacob Kowlewski,  
 Julia Olsen-Peterson  
 1/29: Kathryn Russell



**January Wedding  
Anniversaries**

Michael & Sara Jones - 1/14



**OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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Wow! What great friends we have at OSLC. Your phone calls, cards and notes while we were hospitalized and days following were greatly appreciated. They brightened many days. Thanks for your prayers and friendship too.

We are doing very well. We feel very blessed to have such caring friends.

**THANK YOU!**

- June Williams & Daphne Myers

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## **Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**

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Dear OSLC:

Lutheran Campus Ministry at University of Arizona has arrived! We are delighted to be moving our ministry to your campus. Our helpers have been busy clearing out the youth house and preparing the Annex offices. Thank you for your gracious hospitality and we look forward to a blossoming partnership in the future. We remain two separate organizations by governance but seek greater collaboration in our practice of ministry in outreach to U of A and Tucson. During 2022, Pastor Amalia & I will be gathering a working discernment group to reflect, dream, and plan future directions. If you have passion or feedback in this area---please contact us!

How you can support LCM this month:

- Pray for this transition and that students will follow / find us!
- Become an Advent Luminary (monthly giver to LCM!)

Visit [www.LCMuofa.org](http://www.LCMuofa.org) then Click "Donate" and check "Monthly Donation"

- Volunteer to help us paint, move or get set-up in our new home!
- Help feed our students: we ALWAYS need Wednesday dinner cooks & cookie bakers
- Sponsor a gift for the campus house via Target Registry:

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/lcmuofa>

Peace in Christ,  
Rev. Rebecca Boardman  
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314.322.8120 (cell)



**Lutheran  
Campus  
Ministry**

at University of Arizona

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January 2022